



Agriculture and
Agri-Food Canada

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Science and Innovation Attracts Spanish Biofuels Mission to Ottawa

On April 2, 2008, Dr. Yvon Martel, Chief Scientist, International, International Scientific Cooperation Bureau, hosted a delegation from Spain headed by Mr. Isidro Garcia from the Canadian Embassy in Madrid.

The delegates represented the public sector and companies, such as: ACOR, URCACYL, Calantia, ITACyL, Genome Spain, University of Valladolid, Aragon Institute for Engineering Research of the University of Zaragoza and Spanish National Research Council.

The objective of this mission was to identify any specific scientific cooperation that could be reached between both countries in the following sectors: raw material for bioenergy (especially energy crops); technologies for bioethanol and biodiesel production; use of byproducts from biofuels production (glycerine, DDGs, etc.); and lignocellulosic technologies for biofuel production.



Spanish Biofuels Mission in Ottawa on April 2, 2008

Contact: Dr Yvon Martel (yvondr.martel@agr.gc.ca)

Signing of an MOU between AAFC and INIA

Following the signing of an MOU between AAFC and Instituto Nacional De Investigación Y Tecnología Agraria Y Alimentaria (INIA) on January 9, 2008, a bilateral meeting with INIA took place on January 11, 2008, in Madrid, Spain, to explore avenues for scientific cooperation.

Over the last year, exchange of correspondence has taken place between Ms. Rodríguez-Peña, Dr. Javier Martínez Vassallo and Yvon Martel on the areas of mutual interest for scientific cooperation. The discussions confirmed five areas of cooperation: 1) Functional food with emphasis on active molecules; 2) Cereal and pulses with emphasis on genomics; 3) Livestock production systems and sustainability with an emphasis on waste management; 4) Molecular pharming (pharmaco-molecular) with emphasis on biotechnology processes and bioproducts; and 5) Preserving the genetic diversity of domestic livestock breeds.

It was agreed that the twinning of research projects between the two countries would be of mutual benefit. This will leverage the science capacity of both countries and will minimize the cost by adding only travel expenditures and administrative costs. As a starting point, a list of research projects in functional food and bioproducts will be exchanged between INIA and AAFC.



Mr. Marc Gagnon, Mrs. Maria-Teresa A. Dobao, Dr Yvon Martel, Mrs. Cristina León, Mrs. Paloma Melgarejo, Prof. Angeles Rodriguez-Peña, Mr. Javier Martínez Vassallo and Mr. Luis Rodríguez

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Libya Looking for Scientific Collaboration in Agriculture and Agri-Food

On April 16, 2008, DFAIT organized a meeting between the Libyan Ambassador to Canada, Ahmed Ali Jarrud, and representatives of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (David MacDonald and James Hannah, from Markets and Trade, and Johanne Boisvert, from Research). The purpose of the meeting was to initiate discussions on possible areas of cooperation between Canada and Libya in the agriculture and food area.

Agriculture was the foundation of the Libyan economy until the discovery of oil in the late 1950s. Libya faces a significant problem in regard to water availability for agriculture. The country has no lake or river. Beside dry land agriculture production, Libya is interested in research related to vegetables, cereals (barley and wheat), potatoes, and food quality and safety. Both DFAIT and the Ambassador stated that Canada and Libya were important countries for each other. The next step could be to visit a Libyan scientific delegation.



Participants from left to right:

Johanne Boisvert, Director, ISCB, AAFC; David MacDonald, Deputy Director, AMEUR, IMB, AAFC; Libyan Ambassador to Canada, Ahmed Ali Jarrud; Bob Publicover, Trade Commissioner, Global Operations Branch, DFAIT; James G. Hannah, AMEUR, IMB, AAFC; Sadik Mohamed Ben Sadik, First Counsellor, Embassy of Libya (not on the picture: Louis-Pierre Emond, Deputy Director, Bilateral Commercial Relations, DFAIT)

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Heads-up on Israel-Canada scientific collaboration: planning for a second call for proposals

During the first week of April, Dr Johanne Boisvert was in Tel-Aviv to meet with Dr. Yuval Eshdat, Chief Scientist for the Israeli Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MOARD), Mr. Edo Chalutz, Executive Director of the Bilateral Agriculture Research and Development (BARD) funding agency and Ms. Sara Spiegel, International Director, Agricultural Research Organisation (ARO) to discuss the planning for a second call for joint research proposals. The National Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) has confirmed its involvement. As with the first call, NSERC will support the Canadian universities and AAFC will support its scientists. Scientists from other countries will be welcome to join provided they see to their own funding. The Israel-Canada call aims to create new research teams on cutting edge research, while encouraging universities and government scientists to work together. The success achieved by the 4 on-going projects under the first call in meeting that objective has encouraged the 5 organisations to further pursue the joint funding effort. The second call will be issued in early summer using about the same criteria as the first, but with different priorities.

The Canadian Ambassador showed high interest in Canada-Israel agricultural cooperation in science and innovation and will continue supporting various initiatives benefiting Canadian science and trade communities.

About Bilateral Agriculture Research and Development (BARD)



From left to right: Madam Mona Ashkar, Trade Commissioner, Embassy of Canada in Israel; Dr. Sara Spiegel, Associate Director for International Cooperation, Agricultural Research Organization, Israel Ministry of Agriculture; His Excellency Jon Allen, Canadian Ambassador to Israel; Dr. Johanne Boisvert, Director, Bilateral Scientific Relations, AAFC; Mr. Shan He, Senior Officer for Scientific Relations, AAFC.

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CIFST/AAFC Conference
Conférence ICSTA/AAC



May 25 to 27
25 au 27 mai

2008



International Symposium on Food for Health

May 26, 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Research for the Future: Enhancing Agri-Food Scientific Cooperation with the European Union

The AAFC/CIFST Joint Conference will be taking place from May 25 to 27, 2008, in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island. The International Scientific Cooperation Bureau (ISCB) is especially proud to promote this Symposium.

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada is active in fostering research partnerships with the international community, especially the European Union (EU). ISCB representatives and their EU counterparts will host a special session, during the conference, where new initiatives, novel mechanisms and long-term prospective thinking will be discussed, with the main focus being on increased Canadian participation in the European Union 7th Framework Programme (2007-2013). This session will also serve as a venue to shape the future of the EU-Canada cooperation in food, agriculture and biotechnology in a knowledge-based bio-economy era. The session chair, Dr Yvon Martel, Chief Scientist, International, will be welcoming international keynote speakers.

We hope to see many of you there!

For more information please visit:

Research for the Future: Enhancing Agri-Food Scientific Cooperation with the European Union

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Canada at the Americas Innovation Forum

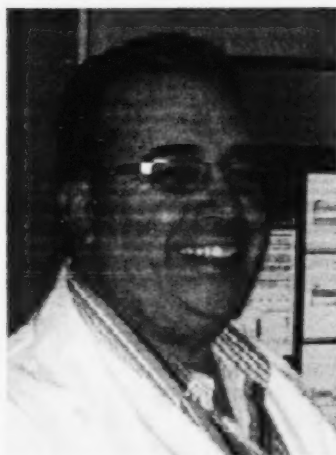
Uruguay was the proud host of the Americas Innovation Forum (AIF 2008) last March 30-April 1, 2008. Dr Johanne Boisvert was invited by the organizing committee to address the theme "International Cooperation for Innovation: the Canadian Agriculture and Agri-food perspective". This was an opportunity to meet with other organisations involved in international collaboration such as the Institut Pasteur (IP) Montevideo. This institute combines high-performance tools that allow access to the latest scientific advances in different research areas. The IP Montevideo welcomes academic and private partners to use its state-of-the-art core facilities. These include transgenic facilities, flow cytometry, cell imaging, and instrumentation for major genomic and proteomic studies, bioinformatics and technologies to study protein structure and protein-protein interactions.



Dr Johanne Boisvert, ISCB with Mrs Ana Ramon, Secretariat General, AMSUD-Pasteur and Mrs Gabriela Couto, Business Manager, IP Montevideo

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International recognition for exceptional contribution to Agricultural Research



Dr. Gilles Doyon, Research Scientist
Food Research and Development Centre (FRDC)

Since 2000, as part of the tripartite Canada/U.S./Mexico R&D program, Dr Doyon heads a project related to the know-how, expertise and development of joint trial protocols on food chain quality, packaging, safety and security and on the traceability of tropical and sub-tropical products.

The partners are as follows: the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), represented by Dr Goenaga, Director of the Puerto Rico station, and associates; the Mexico National Institute of Forestry, Agricultural and Animal Research (INIFAP), represented by Dr S. Salazar-Garcia and associates; and AAFC represented by Dr. Gilles Doyon. Professor J. A. Landry, Eng., of the École de technologie supérieure (ETS), Université du Québec, Montréal, joined the group in 2006-2007 for matters of non-destructive technology measures.

The fields and *in situ* industrial trials were conducted in the three countries, where actual

conditions could be replicated and the trials, repeated. These were held in Québec, Nova-Scotia, Mexico and Puerto Rico. Many symposiums, seminars, events and publishing activities were also held in all three official languages of IICA (French, English and Spanish) and a Website was launched: Task Force on Tropical and Subtropical Fruits

The value of this project was highly praised in 2006 and 2007 when Dr Gilles Doyon received the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) Award for outstanding scientific contribution to the Tropical and Subtropical Task Force.

Dr Brad Fraleigh, Director, Intergovernmental Relations and Canadian representative on the PROCINORTE-IICA Board of Director, and the International Scientific Cooperation Bureau are proud to underline this exceptional contribution and the international influence exerted by Dr. Doyon on the international scene.

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Providing Youth with Awareness of Agriculture and Agri-Food Science

The young people we reach today will help make Canada a global leader in science and innovation. That is the message presented by Jennifer Flanagan, Chief Executive Officer of Actua, to Yvon Martel, Chief scientist, AAFC, on April 11, 2008.

Actua is a national charity representing a growing network of 29 member organizations located at universities and colleges across Canada who offer summer camps, classroom workshops, clubs and community outreach activities.



Mrs Jennifer Flanagan,
Chief Executive Officer of Actua

Actua's programming reflects current innovations in science and technology in Canada, exposing youth to diverse and emerging fields, such as biomechanics, supercomputing, population health, nanotechnology and alternative energy. They do this through partnerships with science organizations and by engaging mentors in all programs.

Actua is Canada's leading science, engineering and technology youth outreach network, reaching a quarter of a million young Canadians annually. They are interested in working closer with AAFC to help youth better understand how food is produced. AAFC could be involved in workshops and by

providing youth with awareness of agriculture and agri-food issues and science. Already the Canadian Space Agency and the Canadian Institutes of Health Research are working closely with Actua.

[Actua Website](#)

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